THE TRUSTEES OF THE JOHN F. SLATER FUND
Occasional Papers, No. 14

County Teacher Training Schools for Negroes

1913

John F

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A number of County Superintendents in the South have been becoming more and more interested in securing a regular supply of trained teachers for their negro rural schools. It seems worth while to publish, and send out to those interested, a summary of the effort which the Slater Fund has been making to coöperate in meeting this demand.

AUG 2 - 1913
Gift.
John F. Slater Fund

COUNTY TEACHER TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR NEGROES.

Copy of Letter Addressed to State Superintendents.

March 27, 1913.

Dear Sir:

I beg to call your attention to the inclosed extract from my last report to the Trustees of the Slater Fund. I have found that it is in the local schools that a very large majority, perhaps ninety per cent., of the teachers in the country schools for colored children have obtained what education they have. One idea in the establishment of a county industrial training school is to provide a place where a better opportunity would be offered for the preparation of teachers in both academic and industrial lines.

At the same time such a school would afford an opportunity for the better class of pupils to continue their training beyond the meager limits of the one-room school.

In many counties there is already a sort of central school which might be turned, with little additional expense, into the class of school alluded to in my report, and I am writing to ask your encouragement and support wherever a county may seem inclined to take steps toward the establishment of such a school.

The Slater Board is desirous of aiding more immediately than hitherto the educational conditions in the rural districts, and would be willing to coöperate with county boards and superintendents in any effort to improve the character and quality of teaching in the country schools.

Hoping that this policy and plan will meet with your approval, I remain,

Yours very truly,

JAMES H. DILLARD,

Director.

Extract from Report to the Trustees of the John F. Slater Fund, Referring to Appropriations in Hempstead County, Arkansas; Sabine and Tangipahoa Parishes, Louisiana; and Newton County, Mississippi.

"Our purpose in these four instances is to aid in establishing a county industrial training school for negroes as a part of the public school system.

"One great need in the establishment of these schools, as I have previously stated to the Board, is to provide means for some sort of preparation for the rural teachers, hardly any of whom have been able to attend any institution outside of their own county or some adjoining county.

"A letter received a few days ago from a county superintendent expresses this idea very nearly. I have not had the opportunity of discussing the matter with this superintendent, nor had I ever heard from him until this letter. Yet he expresses, as I say, the idea which I have had in mind. 'I would like,' he writes, 'to see the course of our colored school developed so as to include a course for the training of teachers. I do not mean that we are to establish a normal school or anything of that sort, but I would like to see some practical opportunities offered the negroes to prepare themselves here in the county to teach our county schools.'

"I have heard from other superintendents to the same effect, and I know at least three who are at present making an effort to establish such a school in their counties. I am sure that where we can coöperate in this way with the county officials, we shall be doing a work which will count immensely in the right direction for the improvement of negro education in the country districts."

EXTRACTS FROM REPLIES OF STATE AND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

Hon. Henry J. Willingham, State Superintendent of Education of Alabama:

"I shall approve and foster at every opportunity the plan outlined in your favor of the 27th looking to the establish-

ment of a sort of central school in the several counties which shall incidentally offer better opportunities for the training of teachers in academic and industrial lines. The idea, in my opinion, is a most excellent one, and by judicious management such a school can probably be maintained without additional machinery in a considerable number of counties of Alabama. The county boards, of course, are the men who hold the strategic point in bringing about such an arrangement. With the beginning of next year's work under the new law in this state allowing county boards to employ assistants to the county superintendent, this additional feature will be brought to their attention in the hope of accomplishing something along the line suggested."

Hon. W. M. Sheats, State Superintendent of Education of Florida:

"Yours of March 27th received. I am willing to coöperate with you to the fullest extent in establishing county industrial training schools. I would like to see at least one in every county. All that is necessary is for you to instruct me what I may do to promote such ends. We need these schools not only for negroes, but I would like to see similar schools established for the whites with something like a teacher training department in each of them. Your policy and plan meet with my highest approval."

Hon. J. Y. Joyner, State Superintendent of Education of North Carolina:

"I approve most heartily your suggestion of a county industrial training school for negro teachers; certainly one of the most serious obstacles to progress in the negro schools is the inefficiency of the negro teachers. The salaries paid them in most counties will not command well-trained teachers, and home provision for inexpensive training of the county teaching force, such as you suggest, is in my opinion both wise and practical. I will take the matter up with Mr. Newbold as soon as he takes charge of the work of supervising the negro rural schools of the state, and coöperate with him in endeavoring to interest the county superintendents and county boards of education in this proposition."

Hon. J. W. Brister, State Superintendent of Education of Tennessee:

"I have yours of the 27th ult. with reference to better school conditions for negroes in the counties of Tennessee. I should be glad to see this central school idea worked out to which you refer where we could give better educational opportunities to negro students than can now be had in the ordinary small schools, and if you could make a suggestion to the county superintendents I should be glad to follow up that letter and encourage them to take advance steps where they are possible. In the meantime I shall take opportunity to consult the superintendents and will endeavor to get them to inaugurate such movements. I believe such has already been attempted in Shelby county and perhaps is under way in several other counties in the state."

Hon. F. M. Bralley, State Superintendent of Education of Texas:

"Your letter of March 27, enclosing an extract from your report to the Trustees of the Slater Fund, has been received. The idea presented in the said extract is an excellent one, and I shall be glad to encourage and assist in any proper way the better training of negro teachers for the negro schools."

Hon. R. C. Stearnes, State Superintendent of Education of Virginia:

"Your letter of March 27th has been received. I enclose a copy of a paragraph that has just been added to our circular on the certification of teachers. It is a curious thing that three or four of us should have the same thought and I welcome the opportunity of aid from the Slater Fund. I would like to hear from you further in regard to this matter."

Supt. C. H. Lewis, Butler County, Alabama:

"Your favor received containing the extract from the report to the Trustees of the Slater Fund. After careful consideration I feel it would meet with one of the greatest needs, giving effectual help to those who could not otherwise get such training except through some benevolent chance like the above. We hope to erect within the next year one or two suitable buildings in the county in order that the colored

teachers may have better opportunities to prepare themselves for better service. We will be glad to coöperate with you and will certainly appreciate any suggestion you may have to offer along this line."

Supt. J. Valdor Curtis, DeKalb County, Alabama:

"I am in receipt of your circular letter of March 27, in regard to assisting in the establishment of training schools for negroes with the Slater Fund and replying will say that my county board of education will be glad to lend its help in any way toward such a project in my county. If you can arrange to give us this help it will be highly appreciated and I feel, well used."

Supt. J. N. Word, Randolph County, Alabama:

"Replying to your letter of the 27th ult., I beg to say that I agree with you on the training of negro teachers. The great trouble about educating the negro is the lack of properly qualified teachers. I would be glad to see them have an opportunity for development in their own county."

Supt. J. P. Oliver, Sr., Tallapoosa County, Alabama:

"Your circular letter concerning the establishment of a central county school for the better educational facilities of our rural colored teachers, strikes me as a good suggestion and very feasible. It meets my hearty approbation and I will be glad to coöperate with you in any way possible in this county. We have a new central building here, which through your assistance has been erected, and can, with a small expense, be turned into a suitable building for this purpose. I will be glad to hear from you further along this line and have you make suggestions how to attain so desirable help for our ambitious and struggling colored teachers."

Supt. N. A. Ballard, Glynn County, Georgia:

"I am very much in sympathy with your circular sent out a few days ago with reference to the necessity of training the

negro teachers for the rural schools. Our negro schools are, to a certain extent, a failure, due to the incompetency of the teachers we are forced to employ, and in carrying out your idea we contemplate the erection of a school building in a thickly populated negro neighborhood in the county. We expect to use it as a training school for our teachers in the rural schools."

Supt. Luther F. Elrod, Jackson County, Georgia:

"Your circular letter, inclosing copy of letter to state superintendents, just received. We have already begun something of that kind in our county. I talked with Mr. Caldwell quite at length about my plans. They are these: we have a negro community in the county where they are thickly settled, and whose influences are good (some of them former teachers), about six miles from this place. The board of education has recently erected a building at a cost of something like $1,000. They erected it for other purposes (that of a white school), but it was discontinued after the first year. Near this, not more than a quarter of a mile, is a negro school, of a hundred or more pupils. It is my purpose to convert this new house into an industrial school for the negroes. I have planned also to get some land that surrounds the building for an experiment farm. The State College at Athens will coöperate with us in having this conducted on a scientific basis. Now the question is of enough money to equip and maintain this school. Could you help us from the Slater Fund? Please let us know what you think of the plan, also any suggestions that you would like to make."

Supt. J. J. Dawsey, Harrison County, Mississippi:

"Yours in regard to the establishing an industrial high school for the colored people of this county to give additional academic and industrial training above the regular public school course is received and given most earnest consideration. Harrison county is well situated for such a school and I would be only too glad to coöperate with you and the Slater Trustees in building such a school. I am building a white agricultural

high school and have it in operation this year. Am delighted with the work being done and should the prospects for a colored industrial school along similar lines become really assuring I would rejoice greatly."

Supt. J. R. Williamson, Simpson County, Mississippi:

"I note with interest the extract from report to the Trustees of the Slater Fund, and also letter to state superintendents, and believe it the best way to get the teachers lined up for the work."

Supt. E. J. Browne, Clarendon County, South Carolina:

"On receiving your circular letter of some time ago, I held a conference with Prof. Myers and a few of the leading colored citizens in regard to the establishment of a colored teachers' training school as outlined or suggested in said circular. This proposition meets with the hearty approval of the colored people. I desire to add to their appeal a statement to the effect that I think this is an excellent place to establish such a school, and if your Board can see its way clear to do so, the proper efforts will be made to justify your giving the necessary aid. We have a good building and plenty of room for the proposed enlargement. I trust you will give this matter your prompt attention and if you look with favor upon it and desire more detail information, write me."

Supt. Fred J. Page, Williamson County, Tennessee:

"I thank you for your favor of the 27th inst., just received, regarding the establishment of a county industrial training school for negroes. We have a central school which might be turned, with little additional expense, into the class of school desired. Please write me what aid you can give to the establishment of such a school."

EXTRACT FROM ADDRESS OF B. C. CALDWELL, DELIVERED AT THE MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL CONGRESS, HELD IN ATLANTA, GA., APRIL 25-29, 1913.

"At this time more than three-fourths of the Slater money is still applied to higher and urban school work. But for two or three years past it has been experimenting with some new and promising work in the country.

Three years ago a parish superintendent in Louisiana applied to the Slater Fund for assistance in establishing a county high school for negro children. Almost at the same time a county superintendent in Arkansas, one in Virginia and one in Mississippi proposed substantially the same thing. It was the purpose in each case to train teachers for the schools of the county.

Trained teachers cannot be had for the meager salary paid country negro teachers. And each of these superintendents hoped to get a regular and fairly good supply of teachers trained to do the work needed in that county.

Supt. A. C. Lewis, of Tangipahoa Parish, La., was the first to undertake to establish such a school. He named it the Parish Training School for Colored Children and located it at Kentwood, a little village in the piny woods part of the parish. The parish school board furnished the teachers and equipment, the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company furnished the house and ten acres of land, and the Slater Fund agreed to give $500 a year for three years. The school is now in its second year, and promises to render valuable service to the parish.

Three similar schools have been established: one in Newton County, Miss., in which the county, the town of Newton, and an organization of colored people contributed, and the Slater Fund pledged $500 for three years; at Hope, Ark., a town school supported by state and local funds, was converted into a central training school (not county, because there is no county school body), and the funds were raised by the town, the local cotton men, and the white and colored citizens individually, with the same Slater contribution; and in Sabine Parish, La., a large community school seven miles in the country was

made the parish training school, with parish authority and support, and liberal contributions of the timber interests owning land all around the school, with the same Slater contribution of $500 a year.

There are no precedents to follow in this work. Every county in the South has felt the need of fairly well-trained teachers in its negro rural schools. But so far as we know this is the first time that superintendents have deliberately planned to get them by training them at home.

Each county will have to feel its way toward the end in view. All of them are making the training schools distinctly industrial and agricultural all the way through the course offered; and some are already giving class work and handcraft of real merit. It will take several years to work out the plan; and local authorities will give their individual stamp to it. But thus far it looks good, and the end in view goes to the very heart of the whole business of negro public schools.''

REPORTS FROM
COUNTY TEACHER TRAINING SCHOOLS
TO THE
TRUSTEES OF THE JOHN F. SLATER FUND
for year ending June 30, 1912

Hope Colored Public School, Hope, Hempstead County, Arkansas. M. A. Matlock, Superintendent of Schools. Henry Yeager, Principal.

Property vested in the School Board of Hope School District. Value of land, $1,500; value of buildings, $3,000; value of equipment, $500; total, $5,000. Of the 402 students, 185 are male and 217 female.

Receipts—	
From State	$ 684.00
From County	119.28
From local tax district	1,696.00
From John F. Slater Fund	500.00
From private subscriptions	560.23
Total Receipts	$3,559.51
Expenditures—	
Salaries of teachers	$2,520.00
Fuel, water and light	150.00
Insurance	15.00
Miscellaneous expenses	95.00
For Permanent Improvements—	
Buildings	560.23
Equipment	219.28
Total Expenditures	$3,559.51

Extract from report of Superintendent:

"I think that the time is ripe for the establishment of some kind of normal training school for our colored teachers. The department that has been maintained in the Hope public school for the teachers of the domestic sciences does not meet the need of the colored teachers for special work along normal school lines. There should be a special normal department

modeled after the normal training high schools that are established in eleven different schools in the State by the State Board of Education for the training of teachers for the rural white schools. One of these departments is maintained in connection with the Hope High School, and I feel sure that a similar department in connection with the colored school would result in greatly increasing the efficiency of the colored teachers of this section."

Sabine Industrial Institute, Converse, Sabine Parish, Louisiana. W. S. Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools. R. E. Jacobs, Principal.

Property vested in Parish School Board. Value of land, $750; value of buildings, $10,500; value of equipment, $1,200; total, $12,450. Of the 203 students, 86 are male and 117 female. There are 75 boarding students attending the institute, 30 male and 45 female; of this number, 20 males and 37 females reside reside in the dormitories. Agriculture, sewing, millinery and carpentry are taught. Special work is done during the regular school term for the professional training of teachers.

Receipts—	
From tuition and entrance fees	$ 323.05
From Parish	700.00
From John F. Slater Fund	500.00
From private subscriptions	940.50
From miscellaneous receipts	147.50
Total Receipts	$2,611.05
Expenditures—	
Administration and office expenses	$ 51.55
Salaries of teachers	2,200.00
Repairs and maintenance	35.00
Fuel, light and water	145.20
Insurance	20.10
Loss on board department	57.50
Miscellaneous expenses	32.50
For Permanent Improvements—	
Buildings	350.00
Grounds	10.00
Equipment	65.00
Miscellaneous	47.00
Total Expenditures	$3,013.55

Extract from report of Principal:

"We are glad to say that the addition of the agricultural department has put new life in our institution. We are doing all that is in our power to make our training school what it should be."

Tangipahoa Parish Training School, Kentwood, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana. A. C. Lewis, Superintendent of Schools. A. M. Strange, Principal.

Property vested in Board of School Directors of Tangipahoa Parish. Value of land, $455; value of buildings, $2,200; value of equipment, $155; total, $2,810. Of 155 students, 64 are male and 91 female. There are 6 boarding students, all female, attending the school. Carpentry, cooking, sewing and agriculture are taught.

Receipts—	
From Parish	$ 670.00
From local tax district	370.00
From John F. Slater Fund	500.00
From private subscriptions	775.92
Miscellaneous receipts	150.00
Total Receipts	$2,465.92
Expenditures—	
Salaries of teachers	$ 580.00
Fuel, water and light	26.10
For Permanent Improvements—	
Buildings	2,075.00
Grounds	455.00
Equipment	100.00
Miscellaneous	25.00
Total Expenditures	$3,261.10

Extract from report of Superintendent:

"As this is the training school for the entire Parish of Tangipahoa, and as it is the plan of the Parish Board of School Directors to have ample facilities for teaching effectively the various trades, and as every possible inducement is being held out by the School Board to students of the various sections of the Parish by way of not charging tuition except for actual

costs, we believe that we can safely predict a bright and useful career for this school. The people all over the parish are supporting the school admirably, as the reports will show. Being a new school, located in the woods, we have been unable to realize any profits from the farm, but in the near future we expect the farm to be an asset to the school."

Newton Industrial School, Newton, Newton County, Mississippi. W. W. Coursey, Superintendent of Schools. J. H. Cole, Principal.

Property vested in Board of Trustees of which the county superintendent is president. Productive endowment, $2,500; value of land, $1,000; value of buildings, $4,000; value of equipment, $1,000; total, $8,500. Of the 475 students, 281 are male and 194 female. There are 75 boarding students attending the school, 25 male and 50 female. Agriculture, woodworking, cooking and sewing are taught.

Receipts—	
From endowment funds	$ 200.00
From County	305.75
From local tax district	759.00
From John F. Slater Fund	500.00
From private subscriptions	1,000.00
Total Receipts	$2,764.75
Expenditures—	
Salaries of teachers	$1,044.75
Repairs and maintenance	150.00
Fuel, light and water	50.00
Insurance	45.00
Total Expenditures	$1,289.75

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